DISTRICT CENSUS REPORT.

REPORT ON THE CENSUS OF THE DISTRICT OF MALDA, 1891.

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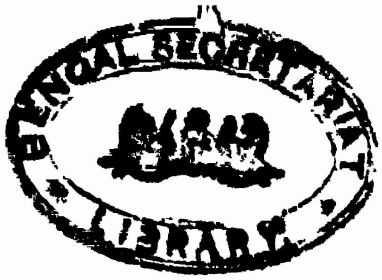

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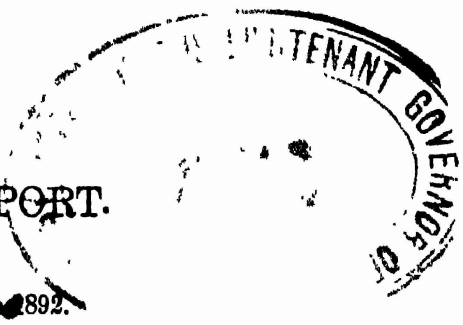

DISTRICT CENSUS REPORT.

No. 338G., dated Malda, the 15th March 1892.

From—C. A. SAMUELLS, Esq., Magistrate of Malda,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department.

WITH reference to Government of Bengal Circular No. 6T.F., dated the 3rd October 1891, I have the honour to submit the following report on the results of the Malda District Census of 1891.

REPORT ON THE CENSUS OF THE DISTRICT OF MALDA, 1891.

HEAD I.—EARLY HISTORY, &c.

THE district of Malda comprises an area of 1,902 square miles, and by recent census contains a population of 814,919 souls, or 428·45 per square mile. The increase over the returns of the previous census is 14 per cent. Since the census of 1872 the population has increased by 20·4 per cent. This is partly due to the increase of area which in 1872 was 1,813 square miles. The main cause of increase, however, is the opening out of the district, and a large addition to the culturable area by jungle clearing, and reclamation of *bils* and waste lands.

2. There is also reason to believe that the district is less subject to heavy floods, though it is true that during the last two or three years these again have increased in magnitude.

3. The portions of the district in which population is densest are the *thanas* of English Bazar, Kaliachak, Sibganj, and Nawabganj. Ratua *thana* has recently received a large increase of population, but some of this is attributable to increase of area.

4. Till recent times the district was for the most part given over to jungle, and was notorious for the large number of wild animals it contained. Even now the greater portion of the country known as the Barind is covered with tree jungle, and large tracts to the north consist of *bils* and swampy country. The latter are being rapidly drained or are silting up, and the increase of cultivation is very marked. Owing, however, to the extent of Ganges floods, this land does not at present afford much foothold for an increasing population. From local tradition and traces of tanks and other evidences of former population it may be safely asserted that those portions which are now being reclaimed from jungle are just those portions of the district which in times gone by have supported the largest number of inhabitants. The great cities of Gaur and Pandua, with their outlying suburbs, extended for a distance of not less than 30 miles in length, and from three to five miles in width. An old writer estimates the population of Gaur itself at over a million and a half, and we know that besides these cities there were others such as Tandan, which native tradition credits with the possession of countless bazars thronged with *amirs* and *palkinisheens*. The cities were not only large and thickly populated, but, being the seat of Government, contained all that was best and noblest in the land. The mighty bunds and ramparts which remain, not to mention buildings such as the Adina mosque at Pandua, and the golden mosque of Gaur, sufficiently attest the splendour and magnificence of the cities of which they are now the only traces left. The high embanked roads and that splendid artificial tank, the Sagar Dighi, one mile in length, show that they had engineering talent as well.

5. In those days it is probable that the rest of the district was not available for the erection of towns or villages, and the bulk of the inhabitants dwelt along the ridges or Katal land occupied by these cities, and the reason is not far to seek. The great works about Gaur were certainly constructed not for defence as Dr. Hunter supposes, but as protection against the spill of the Ganges. The mighty stream in 1200 A.D., we are told, ran through the city of Gaur, but it is certain from the configuration of the country and the existence in the most ancient times of Pandua that the Ganges, before passing through Gaur, first washed the west face of Pandua. Its course can be easily traced by the long string of *bils* entering in the north-west, at or near Hyatpur, and thence straight to Pandua, whence it took a southerly course, and passing through the Kotwali suburb, now English Bazar, swept past the east face of Gaur and on, past the present towns of Kansat and Sibganj. This face of Gaur is protected by two enormous bunds, of which the excavations are on the inside next the city, thus showing conclusively that they were not for defence. Indeed, at the present day, Gaur is inaccessible on the east face owing to the existence of the great Bhatia *bil*, which is never totally dry. The country to the west of Gaur must at that time have been also thickly inhabited. Soon, however, the river ceased to force its way eastward. Possibly its course was to some extent determined by the enormous bunds erected for the protection of the city. It must first have deserted Pandua, and it is curious that Dr. Hunter should have looked on Gaur as the older capital of the two. Whereas, as far as the Muhammadan rule is concerned, it is certain that the Adina *masjid* is prior in point of time to any Muhammadan building in Gaur. Both were very old Hindu cities, and it is a noticeable fact that the stones of the Adina mosque, while they show on the reverse side unmistakable signs of having been part of a Hindu temple, also, I think, show signs in some places of having been employed at the base of a Buddhist stupa. The lower line of stones on which the mosque

rests are carved in the form of the well-known Buddhist railing, which would scarcely have been executed by a Muhammadan or a Hindu.

6. The sites of these cities, so long given over to the denizens of the jungle, are now being rapidly cleared by Sonthals in the case of Pandua, and by Shershabadi Muhammadans in the case of Gaur. They will afford, when completely cleared of jungle, a large area for a surplus population. The Sonthals, as a rule, do not remain after their work as pioneers is over.

7. I think, perhaps, enough has been said on the aspect of the district and pressure of population in ancient times. From a physical point of view the district is divided into well marked tracts. There is first the *diara* tract to the west and from north to south. This is bounded north and east by the river Kalindri and the Bhagirathi to the extreme south. The *thana* of Kalia Chak projects itself into this strip. The *diara* is inhabited chiefly by Hindi-speaking Muhammadans. In the south especially these Muhammadans have crossed over from Murshidabad and, as has been before stated, the land now known as *diara* was at one time on the west side of the Ganges and connected with the Rarh country. The *pargana* of Kankjol is thus found to exist on both sides of the present Ganges, and I believe General Cunningham looks for the site of a Barendra capital somewhere about Kankjol itself.

8. The next strip of country, or the backbone of the district, may be called the line of ancient cities. Between this and the Barendra there are a few *bils*. The line of ancient cities is inhabited chiefly by Bengali-speaking people. The whole eastern face of the district is known as the Barind, a name of local application to the jungle land, comprised of ridges of hard red earth covered with tree jungle, interspersed by low strips of paddy land. These high ridges all more or less show signs of former habitation, and to judge from the maps of 1847 must, even in those days, have carried a larger population than they do now. The maps are studded with the names of villages which no longer exist. It is locally reported that the country was deserted owing to a severe epidemic of fever. It is still a very unhealthy spot, and here we find the aboriginal tribes—the Koohh, the Pali, the Rajbansi, and more recently the Sonthal. The only others who appear to dispute the possession of those insalubrious sites with the aborigines are the aforesaid Shershabadi Muhammadans who move up here when they are washed out of their *diara* settlements, and who furnish most of the bad characters of the district.

9. It will thus be seen that the district possesses some very striking peculiarities as to soil, and these again have caused peculiarities not less striking among the different races who inhabit the various parts of it.

Head II.—Movement of the Population.

10. The chief movement has been an influx of Sonthals into the *thanas* of Old Malda and Gajol. Their numbers have increased from 833 to 20,989, and it is to their agency chiefly that the district owes its emergence from a condition of jungle. The following table shows the increase or decrease of the district population and of the population of the different *thanas* :—

Thanas.	Both Sexes.			Males.			Females.		
	1881.	1891.	Increase.	1881.	1891.	Increase.	1881.	1891.	Increase.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Malda	50,894	58,866	7,972	25,814	30,192	4,378	25,080	28,674	3,594
Khargba	103,051	112,095	9,044	50,267	55,346	5,079	52,784	56,749	3,965
Ratua	81,063	107,849	26,786	38,377	51,779	13,402	42,686	56,070	13,384
Gajol	54,317	63,794	9,481	28,299	33,820	5,521	26,018	29,978	3,960
English Bazar ..	85,045	96,463	11,418	41,332	47,449	6,117	43,713	49,014	5,301
Kalia Chak ..	115,092	129,055	13 963	55,380	62,443	7,053	60,312	67,222	6,910
Sibganj	102,162	114,998	12,836	49,083	54,413	5,330	53,079	60,585	7,506
Gumashtapur ...	52,810	56 575	3,765	26,800	28,531	1,731	26,010	28,044	2,034
Nawabganj	66,453	74,020	8,167	32,156	35,954	3,798	34,297	38,066	4,360
District Total ...	711,487	814,919	103,432	347,508	390,917	52,409	363,979	415,002	51,023

The increase is most marked in *thana* Ratua, though all *thanas* show a considerable percentage of increase. The increase in Ratua is due partly to the transfer of Kataha *diara* from the Sonthal Parganas, and the same cause has also increased the total in *thana* Kalia Chak. The rest must be put down to the natural increase of population, as I know of no other cause which would affect the figures, with the exception of the Sonthals above mentioned, who now number 20,989 against 833 in 1881.

11. No towns have sprung into existence since 1872. Of our two towns, English Bazar and Old Malda, the latter is in a decaying state, the present population being 4,178 as against 4,694. This is due to the divergence of trade.

12. There is an annual immigration of labourers into the Barind to cut the rice, all of whom depart before the rainy season. A large number do not rest here at all, but proceed eastward as far as Mymensingh. They come chiefly from Gorakhpur, Ballia, and Tirhut. They were censused wherever they halted for the night, and were reckoned amongst the travelling population. The census occurred just when they were on the move.

13. There is no doubt that such as do come from Bihar belong to the real poor.

14. The number of villages has increased from 2,100 in 1872 to 3,248 at the recent census. This would seem to bear out my previous assertion that, with the removal of the Ganges to the west, the district has become drier, and more foothold is found for villages.

Head III.—Varying Density of the Population.

15. The *thana* of Ratua shows the greatest increase in population, but not necessarily in density owing to increase of area. Nawabganj and Kharba, on the other hand, both show an abnormal increase in density since 1872.

Thanas.	Area in	Both sexes.			Males.			Females.		
	1891.	1872.	1891.	Difference.	1872.	1891.	Difference.	1872.	1891.	Difference.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Sq. miles.									
Malda	236	50,563	58,866	8,303	26,662	30,192	3,530	23,901	28,674	4,773
Kharba	294	92,011	112,095	20,084	45,600	55,946	9,746	46,411	56,749	10,338
Ratua	370	65,548	107,849	42,301	31,038	51,779	20,151	33,930	56,070	22,150
Gajol	272	55,316	63,798	8,482	28,282	33,820	5,538	27,034	29,978	2,944
English Bazar	126	85,702	96,463	10,761	41,483	47,449	5,966	44,219	49,014	4,795
Kalia Chak	197	119,375	129,655	10,280	56,784	62,433	5,649	62,591	67,222	4,631
Sibganj	186	105,717	114,998	9,281	49,914	54,413	4,499	55,803	60,585	4,782
Gumashtapur	170	48,990	56,575	7,576	25,009	28,531	3,522	23,980	28,044	4,064
Nawabganj	140	53,195	74,620	21,425	25,725	35,954	10,229	27,470	38,666	11,196
Total ...	1,902	676,426	814,919	138,493	331,087	399,917	68,830	345,339	415,002	69,663

In Nawabganj the cause is not very clear, and I cannot at present offer any explanation until I see the details. The increase in Kharba is due to the impulse given by the jute trade, which has spread largely in that *thana*. The increase in Nawabganj and Kharba seems to be pretty equally divided between the sexes. It seems probable that the increase in Nawabganj is due to influx of *raiyats*, who have been washed out by the destruction of *diaras* on the Murshidabad side, and by a consequent extension of *diaras* on this side; and if so, the change must have occurred prior to the census of 1881, as I have no recent increase of area to report.

Head IV.—Religion.

16. Under this head there has been an increase of Sonthals by immigration; many of these are Christians.

17. In Malda *thana* the Muhammadans would appear to be on the increase. In Kharba the increase of Hindus and Muhammadans seems to be pretty equal. In Ratua the Hindus have the advantage. Gajol presents the peculiarity of an increase in Muhammadan males and a decrease in females. In Sibganj, as was to be expected, the Muhammadans largely preponderate. These changes do not appear to be due to any other cause than the natural variation of population under each head. I append a statement for each *thana*.

Religions.	Malda.		Kharba.		Ratua.		Gajol.		English Bazar.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Hindu ... ... 1872 ...	18,608	15,794	26,882	26,468	22,402	23,426	20,747	19,757	26,522	28,309
1891 ...	16,726	15,173	32,345	32,259	38,699	41,968	20,740	18,320	28,280	28,513
Difference ...	*−1,882*	*−621*	*+5,963*	*+5,791*	*+16,297*	*+18,542*	*−7*	*−1,437*	*+1,758*	*+204*
Muhammadans ... 1872 ...	7,639	7,736	18,162	19,397	7,193	8,348	7,157	6,885	14,800	15,779
1891 ...	8,144	8,612	22,878	24,369	13,069	14,017	7,715	6,588	19,158	20,496
Difference ...	*+505*	*+876*	*+4,716*	*+4,972*	*+5,876*	*+5,669*	*+558*	*−297*	*+4,358*	*+4,717*
Christians ... 1872 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	6
1891 ...	15	10	...	...	4	2	6	6	5	3
Difference ...	*+15*	*+10*	...	...	*+4*	*+2*	*+6*	*+6*	*−8*	*−3*
Others ... ... 1872 ...	415	371	556	546	1,973	2,146	378	392	148	125
1891 ...	5,307	4,879	123	121	7	83	5,359	5,064	6	1
Difference ...	*+4,892*	*+4,508*	*−433*	*−425*	*−1,966*	*−2,063*	*+4,981*	*+4,672*	*−142*	*−124*

Religions.	Kalia Chak.		Sibganj.		Gumashtapur.		Nawabganj.		Total.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
Hindu ... ... 1872 ...	28,946	32,020	12,786	14,290	10,277	8,774	10,073	10,151	177,303	178,995
1891 ...	29,992	32,313	12,808	13,663	11,427	9,907	13,283	12,820	204,300	204,836
Difference ...	*+1,046*	*+293*	*+22*	*−633*	*+1,150*	*+1,033*	*+3,210*	*+2,669*	*+26,997*	*+25,841*
Muhammadans ... 1872 ...	27,779	30,508	36,977	41,346	14,403	14,891	15,069	16,821	140,170	161,711
1891 ...	32,429	34,895	41,600	46,919	17,054	18,190	22,671	25,846	184,718	199,933
Difference ...	*+4,650*	*+4,387*	*+4,623*	*+5,573*	*+2,651*	*+3,299*	*+7,602*	*+9,025*	*+35,549*	*+38,222*
Christians ... 1872 ...	1	6	7	4	1	6	2	2	25	18
1891 ...	2	6	3	...	7	3	...	...	42	30
Difference ...	*+1*	...	*−4*	*−4*	*+6*	*−3*	*−2*	*−2*	*+17*	*+12*
Others ... ... 1872 ...	57	63	144	157	328	319	581	496	4,580	4,615
1891 ...	10	8	2	3	43	44	...	...	10,857	10,403
Difference ...	*−47*	*−55*	*−142*	*−154*	*−285*	*−275*	*−581*	*−496*	*+6,277*	*+5,788*

Head V.—Infirmities.

18. For the purposes of the census only the true cancerous leprosy is considered. I am not aware that any attempt was made to distinguish between different forms of dementia. The total 2,000 represents in round numbers the numbers under each religion, Hindu and Muhammadan, of those who laboured under the special infirmities mentioned. The number of Muhammadan lepers is 196 against 299 Hindus, thus disposing of the popular belief that Muhammadans are more liable to leprosy.

Religions.	Total Population in each Religion.		Blind.		Deaf and Dumb.		Lepers.		Insane.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Hindu	204,300	204,836	279	303	306	249	227	72	119	77
Muhammadan	184,718	199,933	223	258	253	209	164	32	68	64
Animistic	10,842	10,192	2	2		4	2	...	...	...
Others	57	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	399,917	415,002	504	563	565	462	393	104	187	141

Head VI.—Education.

19. The following statement shows the increase in education according to religions:—

Religions.	Total Population in 1891.		Males.			Females.		
	Males.	Females.	1881.	1891.	Difference.	1881.	1891.	Difference.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Hindu	204,300	204,836	11,021	15,659	+4,638	114	275	+161
Muhammadan	184,718	199,933	4,218	7,301	+3,083	26	56	—30
Christian	42	30	6	17	+11	5	9	—4
Santhal	10,328	9,708	...	20	+20	...	...	...
Jain	4	...	...	1	+1	...	...	...
Brahmo	7	10	1	4	+3	...	2	+2
Kuki	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Garo	504	474	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paharia	8	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sikh	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jew	...	...	1	...	—1	1	...	—1
Total ...	399,917	415,002	15,247	23,002	+7,755	146	342	+196

20. This statement shows only 7,951 more persons as being educated than was the case in 1881—ten years previous. The figures, however, indicate that the increase among Hindus is about 75 per cent., and among Muhammadans about 12 per cent. The proportion borne by the number of persons educated to the whole population of the district is 2·8 per cent.

21. I append another statement compiled in my office, showing the number of persons of the different castes who are returned as being acquainted with English. The Brahmans and Kayasthas, of course, bear away the prize, and the total is 420, *plus* 5 persons in the whole district, of which the Muhammadans furnish about one-eighth.

MALE.

Thanas.	Brahman.	Kayastha.	Shaikh.	Mal.	Pasi.	Sayyid.	Kaibartta.	Banik, Bangadeshi.	Kandu.	Sadgop.	Dhanuk.	Paharia.	Tanti (Tantoobai).	Gaurdeshi.	Chhatri.	Christian.	Bairagi.	Gaurbanik.	Native Christian.	Baidya.	Nagar.	Gandabanik.	Pundari.	Pathan.	Bahalia.	Goala.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Malda	5	6	5	1	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Kharba	20	12	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	1	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ratua	15	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gajol	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
English Bazar ...	68	32	14	1	...	1	2	4	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	18	2	2	4	3	1	3
Kalia Chak ...	4	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Sibganj	16	3	11	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Gumashtapur ...	3	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Nawabganj ...	7	6	5	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total ...	140	74	45	2	1	2	7	6	1	5	1	1	6	1	2	12	7	8	3	20	2	3	4	4	1	7

	Chain.	Teli.	Napit.	Bangadeshi.	Sonar (Sarnakar).	Tili.	Kahar.	Armenian Christian.	Gossain.	Tatwa.	Kansari.	Gangauta.	Gondhi.	Patni.	Chashat.	Tambuli.	Thathera.	Kumbhakar.	Shah.	Kshatriya.	Ugrakshatriya.	Subarnabanik.	Sunri.	Mirja.	Total.	Christian females.
	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
Malda	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	...
Kharba	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41	...
Ratua	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	1
Gajol	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...
English Bazar ...	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180	2
Kalia Chak ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	1
Sibganj	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	1
Gumashtapur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...
Nawabganj ...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	2	2	2	1	1	3	46	...
Total ...	1	2	5	1	1	4	1	1	1	3	4	2	2	2	6	5	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	420	5

Head VII.—Language.

22. A statement is appended for the district, showing the actual numbers speaking each language with the distribution.

Languages.	Total.		Malda.		Kharba.		Ratua.		Gajol.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Bengali ...	296,732	314,898	21,232	21,137	49,503	52,261	16,270	17,006	23,756	23,142
Hindi ...	90,425	88,201	3,544	2,584	4,804	3,502	35,498	38,019	2,561	1,716
Santali ...	11,036	10,114	5,338	4,847	121	117	34	25	5,469	5,055
Pasthu ...	14	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	1
English ...	20	13	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	...
Panjabi ...	15	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Urdu ...	575	628	69	100	...	...	5	7	...	...
Persian ...	35	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Marwari ...	10	6	7	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Daccani ...	962	1,022	...	...	840	869	31	21	1	41
Karwa ...	15	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	23
Kuki ...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Assamese ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Uriya ...	54	...	3	...	17	...	9	...	2	...
Arabic ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kashmiri ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nepali ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

	English Bazar.		Kalia Chak.		Sibganj.		Gumashtapur.		Nawabganj.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Bengali ...	28,867	31,223	216,751	50,686	51,644	58,140	25,377	26,410	31,272	4,803
Hindi ...	18,322	17,502	15,425	16,325	2,006	2,202	3,080	1,573	4,585	3,798
Santali ...	6	9	...	...	11	3	57	58	...	...
Pasthu ...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
English ...	5	2	2	6	3	...	6	3	...	...
Panjabi ...	3	...	5	3	2	1	...	...	1	1
Urdu ...	122	119	182	202	137	149	...	...	60	51
Persian ...	1	2	...	...	6	...	1	...	32	23
Marwari ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Daccani ...	90	91	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Karwa ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kuki ...	...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Assamese ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Uriya ...	19	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Arabic ...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kashmiri ...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nepali ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

23. As I said before, Hindi is chiefly spoken on the *diara*. Thus Ratua shows 74,000 Hindi-speaking people out of 107,000 in round numbers. Kalia Chak and Sibganj have both a large Bengali-speaking population on the line of ancient cities, and also a good share of Hindi-speaking people on the *diara*. Bengali is spoken by 611,630 people, and Hindi by 178,686. There are 21,000 Sontali-speaking people, showing an increase of 19,530 over last census.

The Pali speak Bengali, and if the Kochh have any language of their own, they have not disclosed it. The figures of other languages are of no importance.

Head VIII.—Castes.

24. I forward a note drawn up by Babu Khagendra Nath Mitra, Deputy Collector, with a table showing the distribution of the chief castes in the district and remarks on the variations which have occurred since 1872.

25. The papers were not received till the middle of December, and I regret that I am unable to supply any satisfactory explanation of the variation in the number of Kochhs, Palis, and Rajbansis returned at each census. It is probable, as the Deputy Collector remarks, that these castes are not very distinctly marked out, and that the enumerators have not been very careful to discriminate between them. At the same time, I have never found that any difficulty existed in recognizing a Kochh from a Pali, and the latter caste seemed to be equally well aware of the difference between their sub-castes.

26. I know nothing whatever about castes myself, and it would take time to work up the subject as regards these tribes. The curious fact is that since 1872 the total number seems to have decreased from 63,217 to 62,975, while the figures of each different caste in the group have varied enormously. Whether this is due to the enumerators' vagaries, or, as I think more probable, to the absorption of one caste by another, it is impossible to say. These tribes inhabit the Barind tract, and perhaps it might be worth while to ascertain whether any great change has taken place and reasons for it.

27. The caste called Pundari forms, I believe, another distinctive feature in caste distribution in this district. Their increase is somewhat remarkable, and corresponds with a remarkable advance in their own particular trade—the rearing of silkworms.

28. The mulberry-growers and rearers of silkworms are chiefly confined to the *thanas* Kalia Chak, Sibganj, and English Bazar. In Kalia Chak *thana* mulberry is supplanting other crops.

29. There are very few high class Brahmans in the district. An attempt has been made in table II to group the various castes in the order of social precedence, and in another table the castes are arranged according to occupation.

Head IX.—Occupations.

30. In preparing the following table on "Occupations by castes," only the chief castes within the district have been taken into account, and some of the names in the list of castes, such as Házári, Maharâ, Chaudhris, &c., which are mere titles, have been omitted. An attempt has been made to classify according to the characteristic functions of the castes, though, as a matter of fact, they follow other occupations also than their own.

A.—Agricultural.

1. Zamindars—

Brahman.	Guar Desi Banik.
Kayastha.	Muhammadan.

2. Tenure-holders.

3. Occupancy raiyats—

(1) Chhatri or Rajput.	(6) Rajbansi.
(2) Pundari.	(7) Desi.
(3) Kaibartta and Chasa Das.	(8) Chain.
(4) Paliya.	(9) Dhanuk.
(5) Kochh.	(10) Muhammadan.

4. Non-occupancy raiyats—

(1) Chhatri or Rajput.	(7) Dhanuk.
(2) Kaibartta.	(8) Sonthal.
(3) Kochh.	(9) Tiyar.
(4) Rajbansi.	(10) Goala.
(5) Desi.	(11) Hari.
(6) Chain	(12) Nagar.

(13) Muhammadan.

5. Field labourers—

(1) Bind.	(5) Beldar.
(2) Dhangar.	(6) Bagdi.
(3) Kharwar.	(7) Tiyars.
(4) Dosadh.	(8) Muhammadan.

B.—Professional.

1. Priestly class—
   Brahman.
2. Literate class—
   (*a*) Medical—
   Baidya.
   (*b*) Legal—
   (1) Brahman.
   (2) Kayastha.
   (*c*) Educational—
   (1) Brahman.
   (2) Kayastha.
   (*d*) Clerks and writers—
   (1) Brahman.
   (2) Kayastha.
   (3) Baidya.
   (*e*) Administrative—
   (1) Brahman.
   (2) Kayastha.
   (3) Baidya.
   (*f*) Constables, peons, chaukidars—
   (1) Chhatri or Rajput.
   (2) Dosadhs.
   (3) Haris.
   (4) Muhammadan.

C.—Commercial.

1. Bankers and money-lenders.
   (1) Bangadesi Banik.
   (2) Gaurdesi Banik.
2. Wholesale dealers—
   (1) Agarwala.
   (2) Tili.
   (3) Bangdesi Banik.
   (4) Gaurdesi Banik.
3. Retail dealer.
   (1) Tili.
   (2) Agarwala.
   (3) Bangdesi Banik.
   (4) Gaur Desi Banik.
   (5) Subarnabanik.
   (6) Gandhabaniks and all classes of Baniks.

D.—Artisans.

Fabrics and dress stuffs—

(1) Pundari	...	Rear silkworms.
(2) Tanti	...	Weavers.
(3) Gonesh	...	
(4) Momin (Muhammadan)	...	

2. Food and drinks—

(1) Goala	...	Sell milk, *ghi*, and curd.
(2) Kandu	...	Confectioners.
(3) Halui or Mayara	...	
(4) Suri	...	Distil country spirit.
(5) Pasi	...	Tap date trees for manufacture of toddy.

3. Animal substances—

(1) Muhammadan as (Kasais)	...	Butchers.
(2) Chamar and Muchi	...	Shoe-makers.
(3) Kural	...	Ditto.
(4) Chuniya and Chunari	...	Slaked-lime manufacturers.
(5) Baiti	...	Ditto ditto.
(6) Sankhari	...	Prepare bangles from conches.

4. Vegetable substances—

(1) Subji faras or Kunjra (Muhammadan)	...	Vegetable-sellers.
(2) Kalu and Teli	...	Oil-pressers.
(3) Betua	...	Cane basket-makers.
(4) Sutradhar or Chhutar	...	Carpenters.
(5) Dom	...	Bamboo basket-makers.
(6) Paliya	...	Oil-pressers.

5. Mineral substances—

(1) Kamar	...	Ironsmiths.
(2) Sonar	...	Gold and silversmiths.
(3) Kansar or Kansabanik	...	Braziers.

6. Earthenware—

Kumhar (Kumbhukar)	...	Potters.

E.—Pastoral Groups.

(1) Goala	...	Sells milk, *ghi*, and curd.
(2) Gareri	...	Shepherds.
(3) Dom	...	Keepers of pigs.

F.—Hunting and Fishing Groups.

(1) Kaibartta (Machhua)	...	Fishermen.
(2) Jalya	...	
(3) Tiyar	...	
(4) Malo	...	
(5) Surahiya	...	
(6) Chandal	...	
(7) Gonrhi	...	
(8) Kewats	...	
(9) Bedia	...	
(10) Mahifaras (Muhammadan)	...	Fish-sellers.

G.—Serving Groups.

(1) Napit	...	Barbers.
(2) Kahar	...	Bearers.
(3) Bauri	...	Bearers and labourers.
(4) Dhobi	...	Washermen.
(5) Hari	...	Sweepers.
(6) Bhuimali	...	
(7) Kurmi	...	Menial servants.
(8) Gangat	...	Boatmen.
(9) Bagdi	...	Coolies and labourers.
(10) Tiyar	...	Boatmen.
(11) Jaliya	...	
(12) Gonrhi	...	
(13) Kewat	...	
(14) Malo	...	
(15) Surahiya	...	
(16) Gahanidar	...	
(17) Beldar	...	Coolies and labourers.
(18) Mihter	...	Night-soil carriers.

H.—Unproductive Groups.

1. Actors and miners ... ... Nil.
2. Astrologer—
   Grahacharya Brahmans or Daibajna.
3. Dancers and singers—
   Nat.
4. Devotees—
   (1) Aghori Nath.
   (2) Aghor Panthi.
   (3) Aghor.
   (4) Atith.
   (5) Baul.
   (6) Brahmachari.
   (7) Dasnami.
   (8) Fakirs.
   (9) Gosains.
   (10) Giri Gosains.
   (11) Nemeti.
   (12) Naga.
   (13) Nanakpanthi.
   (14) Panchaparibar.
   (15) Ramat.
5. Genealogists and bards ... ... Nil.
6. Jugglers, snake-charmers, and animal exhibitors ... Nil.
7. Musicians and ballad reciters—
   (1) Vaishnava.
   (2) Baiti.
   (3) Bhat and Rajbhat.
   (4) Mehana.
   (5) Tantua.
   (6) Hari.
8. Tumblers and acrobats ... ... Nil.

Head X.—Administrative.

31. In 1890, in accordance with orders contained in Census Superintendent's circular No. 1, dated the 7th March 1890, work was commenced by the examination and correction of register A and B. The work was entrusted to the police, and though, no doubt, all villages are included, the entry of them by serial number in register B was not properly understood. In my opinion these registers should be rewritten annually. The changes in a district like Malda in ten years are considerable. Old villages are washed away and new ones spring into existence every year. The necessity of keeping these registers up to date is obvious from other points of view, which I need not dwell on here.

32. Arrangements were commenced for dividing the district into circles and blocks. The *thana* or outpost formed the unit of a charge. There were 15 charges, 302 circles, and 3,711 blocks.

33. The testing of this work could not be carried out till the floods subsided in October and November. This, I think, should be avoided in future by having the rough blocking done the previous cold season. When schedules are issued in bound books, accurate and economical

blocking becomes a matter of the first importance, and should not be left to the last moment. There is no reason why village lists and blockings should not be done at leisure during the cold season previous to that in which the census takes place. Because at the last moment we have quite enough to do appointing enumerators, numbering houses, and instructing the willing but ignorant people with whom we have to work. The numbering of houses was done block by block and not village by village. Village numbering is a mistake, I think. Each block should be independent, and fresh houses can be added to each block without much trouble. This is my experience at best, and in this matter theory should not prevail against practice. I now note under the various heads of information.

Point in which general instructions were departed from.

34. *Administration.*—In numbering the houses, each block, and not each village, was taken as a unit, and the houses in it were serially numbered. This not only facilitated the work, but rendered easy the incorporation of newly-built houses; besides enabling each enumerator to know at once how many houses he had to look after.

Definition of a village.

35. The definition of a village as given in Census Superintendent's circular No. 10 was well understood by all the census officers, and was very carefully attended to in the grouping of villages into blocks. In some cases small groups of houses, although having distinct names, have been joined on to the nearest large villages to form a block; but *paras*, *tolahs*, &c., have in all cases been included in the *gaon* or *gram* to which they belong. It must be remembered that in this district we have a large extent of jungle land. Population is comparatively sparse, and villages and hamlets much scattered and broken up. There were also great difficulties in the way of procuring fit persons in such tracts for the office of enumerator. The blocking, however, was in general very well performed. But it would have been better still had we been able to arrange for this part of the work a year in advance.

Definition of a house.

36. The definition of a house was well understood, and was taken into careful consideration at the time of numbering, and in some cases a single number had to be given to more buildings than one inhabited by a single family; while in others, two or more numbers had to be put to a single building inhabited by two or more separate families.

Size of the charge or sub-charge.

37. There are nine *thanas*, four outposts, and two municipalities in the district, and each of them formed a separate and independent charge; the area of the largest charge is 294 square miles and that of the smallest (excluding municipalities) was 126 square miles. There were no sub-charges in the district.

Endeavours were made to make each circle, as far as possible, contain 500 houses; but this rule had to be departed from in some few cases owing to the local position of villages.

Size of the block.

38. Blocks were formed, as far as possible, not of more than 50 houses each. Large villages were broken up into two or more blocks, according to the number of houses contained in them. Small villages had sometimes to be grouped together to form a block of not more than 50 houses for utilizing books of 60 schedules, as much as possible, in accordance with the Census Superintendent's letter No. 158T., dated the 27th June 1890.

Numbering of houses, &c.

39. Houses were generally numbered with coal tar or a mixture of lime and catechu. The probable actual cost was very insignificant, and we had nothing to pay from our office, the expenses having been met by the supervisors and enumerators themselves. This is one of the instances in which expenditure has been saved to the State.

Practicability of permanent numbering.

40. The practicability of a permanent numbering of houses depends primarily on the permanency of the villages and houses themselves. In a majority of cases the houses are built of thatch and straw, and are of short duration. In some cases they are constructed on lands in the beds of rivers, or newly formed on their banks, with every probability of their being washed away during the rains and after a flood or inundation: and in a few cases they are temporary sheds erected for a very short period only. Hence, a permanent numbering is, I think, not practicable, and would be of no material advantage.

Classes from whom supervisors and enumerators were derived.

41. *Agency.*—Supervisors and enumerators were principally derived from the *zamindars' amlas*, school *pandits*, *panchayats*, and other headmen of villages.

Willingness of supervisors and enumerators.

42. The supervisors and enumerators in general willingly undertook their duties, and seemed to have done their work with pleasure and zeal. In many places I found they had prepared rough manuscript *khasra* books which were completely written up before a single entry was made in the printed schedule books. Thus errors were corrected in the *khasra*, and the printed books are models of neatness and care. I cannot speak too highly of the excellent spirit displayed by all classes in this district, and their readiness to afford us every assistance.

43. *Census prosecutions.*—There were no prosecutions in this district.

Pecuniary expenditure of supervisors nd enumerators.

44. Their duties, no doubt, involved some expenditure on account of ink, paper, and other stationery, but this was cheerfully incurred, and in no single instance has any charge been made on this score.

Paid census officers.

45. No paid officers were employed, in spite of the fact that the work had to be carried out in jungle tracts. This speaks volumes for the Charge Superintendents and others.

46. *Attitude of the people.*—I have already borne testimony to the admirable spirit evinced by all classes. It is said that a few foolish rumours were in circulation, but they did

not come to my ears; nor, if they existed, did they in any way affect the even tenor of our way. Everything passed off without a hitch of any kind.

47. *The result.*—Every possible care was taken to make the enumeration a very accurate one, and I believe that the results arrived at are as correct as it is possible for them to be. I say this with confidence, as I personally inspected every charge and visited quite nine-tenths of the blocks. My whole staff also gave assistance at one time or another. Instruction was freely given at definite centres when officers went on tour. I made a preliminary count of males and females, block by block, in January, and the figures then obtained corresponded wonderfully with the ultimate results. No instance of any omissions has come to our knowledge, and the increase which has occurred is found exactly in those places where we expected it, chiefly in *thana* Ratua, owing to the incorporation of large tracts of *diara* from the Sonthal Parganas since last census. These circumstances enable me to speak with confidence of the result.

Accuracy.

48. In all the charges, except that of the Old Malda Municipality, there has been an increase in population; but the increase which is inconsiderable is not due to any cause worth mentioning, except in *thana* Ratua, where the marked increase (being about 33 per cent.) is due to the transfer of certain villages from the Sonthal Parganas to this district.

Increase of population.

The decrease in the Old Malda Municipality is due to the fact that many *mahajans* have left the place on account of a decline in commerce. The desertoin of the locality is also partly due to the insanitary condition of the place.

49. I may add that the work of the Charge Superintendents was entirely in the hands of the police, as it was found impossible in this district to secure competent men for these important posts. With one or two exceptions, they worked admirably.

50. The following table shows the population of each *thana* during the years 1881 and 1891:—

	Population.			Remarks.
	Total.	Males.	Females.	
1	2	3	4	5
Municipality of English Bazar { Census, 1881 ...	12,430	6,289	6,141	
„ 1891 ...	13,818	7,381	6,437	
Difference ...	1,388	1,092	296	Increase.
Municipality of Old Malda ... { Census, 1881 ...	4,694	2,252	2,442	
„ 1891 ...	4,178	2,112	2,066	
Difference ...	516	140	376	Decrease.
Kharba thana ... ... { Census, 1881 ...	103,051	50,267	52,784	
„ 1891 ...	112,095	55,346	56,749	
Difference ...	9,044	5,079	3,965	Increase.
Gajol ... ... { Census, 1881 ...	54,317	28,299	26,018	
„ 1891 ...	63,798	33,820	29,978	
Difference ...	9,481	5,521	3,960	Ditto.
Ratua ... ... { Census, 1881 ...	81,063	38,377	42,686	
„ 1891 ...	107,849	51,779	56,070	
Difference ...	26,786	13,402	13,384	Ditto.
Malda ... ... { Census, 1881 ...	46,200	23,562	22,638	
„ 1891 ...	54,688	28,080	26,606	
Difference ...	8,488	4,518	3,970	Ditto.
English Bazar ... ... { Census, 1881 ...	72,615	35,043	37,572	
„ 1891 ...	82,645	40,068	42,577	
Difference ...	10,030	5,025	5,005	Ditto.
Kalia Chak ... ... { Census, 1881 ...	115,692	55,380	60,312	
„ 1891 ...	129,655	62,433	67,222	
Difference ...	13,963	7,053	6,910	Ditto.
Gumashtapur ... ... { Census, 1881 ...	52,810	26,800	26,010	
„ 1891 ...	56,575	8,531	28,044	
Difference ...	3,765	1,731	2,034	Ditto.
Nawabganj ... ... { Census, 1881 ...	66,453	32,156	34,297	
„ 1891 ...	74,620	35,954	38,666	
Difference ...	8,167	3,798	4,369	Ditto.
Sibganj ... ... { Census, 1881 ...	102,162	49,083	53,079	
„ 1891 ...	114,998	54,413	60,585	
Difference ...	12,836	5,330	7,506	Ditto.
Total of 1881	711,487	347,508	363,979	
„ 1891	812,855	398,171	414,684	
Difference ...	101,368	50,663	50,705	Ditto.

51. *Abstraction.*—The following table shows the number of men employed in the census compilation office of this district, and the pay and time allowed to them:—

No.	Heads.	Pay.	Time working (days).	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs. A. P.	M. D.	
1	Inspector ...	366 12 3	4 15	
1	Inspector's clerk ...	86 5 3	4 15	
2	Assistant Inspector ...	210 0 0	4 15	
1	Record-keeper ...	218 1 0	4 15	
7	Room Supervisors ...	552 13 2	4 0	
46	Abstractors ...	1,970 1 1	0 90	
2	Extra abstractors ...		0 81	
2	Test-slip clerks ...	120 4 0	0 88	
2	"R" form clerks ...	77 3 1	0 81	
2	Adjustment clerks ...	622 7 8	3 15	
10	Reabstractors ...			
3	Tabulators ..	853 3 0	...	
3	Two daftaris and one sweeper.	100 8 9	8 0	
	Total ...	5,177 11 3		

The population abstracted and tabulated in this district is 854,657, of which 814,919 are of this district and 39,738 of Sonthal Parganas.

52. The enumeration books were numbered in accordance with the instruction contained in paragraph 3 of the draft rules received with the Census Superintendent's circular No. 46, dated 27th February 1891. The substitution of letters for numbers of blocks, instead of diminishing the work of abstraction and tabulation, led to confusion and threw additional work on the whole staff. It would be better to write on the top of the book, after the name of village, the village number of register B, the general number of block from register E, and the number of book given on the book itself; and in order to keep them separate from one another, a hyphen should be put between each two of them. Thus, the third book of the 5th block in a village whose B register No. 579 and block No. 729 should be written 579-729-3 instead of 579EIII. These numbers should be given in vernacular and not in English, so that the abstractors, who do not know English, may, without the assistance of the supervisor fill up the headings of the abstraction sheets, and thus the time of both the abstractors and supervisor, as well as of tabulator not knowing English, may be saved. Most of the abstractors and tabulators in this district could not write or read even the English alphabet, and it became part of the duty of the supervisor to read over to them those numbers which were given in English. Difficulty was also felt in giving numbers of blocks in tabulation register No. I. It would also save the time of the assistant inspectors if in column 3 of all the tabulation registers the general block number of register E were written. The tabulator could then easily fill in the block numbers in the headings of the totalling forms from their registers.

53. There were many gaps and blanks in the enumeration books. Many lines or entries were not properly cancelled by the enumerator. Only the column of the name was penned through, and the other columns allowed to remain unaltered. The abstractors who were intelligent, obedient, and careful, abstracted such entries correctly, but those who were careless and paid no attention to the inspector's repeated instructions did not bring the book to him or to their room supervisor for necessary correction, and abstracted the entries that ought to have been cancelled. To correct these mistakes much time of the inspector as well as of the re abstractors and adjustment clerks was unnecessarily wasted. If the entries of the books were carefully examined and corrected by some intelligent clerks before the commencement of the abstraction, these difficulties might have been removed, accuracy secured to a much greater extent, and the time of the whole staff saved.

54. *Test-slip.*—The success in the operation of the census compilation chiefly depends on the accuracy of the test-slip work, but the task on this most important work was very heavy. Each clerk had to fill in 25 test-slips a day at an average, viz., he had to copy out entries from 200 sheets in 25 test-slips a day. Entries from sheets IV, V, and VI are the easiest, those from sheets II, III and X, though not very difficult, require time; but on sheet I the clerk had to prepare sub-totals to compare with sheets II and III, and a good many entries had to be copied on test-slips from this sheet as well as from R Form. These two (sheets I and XI) are the most difficult sheets, and take up considerable time.

Moreover, in finding out the test-slip in which entries are to be made, waste of time increases day by day as the abstraction advances in each issue of packets, and the sheets accumulate in the file of test-slips. Hands should be increased to properly carry on this work within the time estimated. The test-slip clerks in this district used to attend office from morning to 10 A.M. and from late afternoon to evening, though they were assisted by two extra abstractors.

55. *Reabstraction and adjustment.*—The task of the adjustment clerk was 25 sets of sheets. This task is considered a very heavy one. It was found in the course of work that the totals and sub-totals of sheets entered in the test-slips were not always accurate. These clerks were therefore necessarily instructed to check all the totals and not to rest satisfied with the totals given by the abstractor and room supervisor, and also not to depend on the entries of test-slips, in which mistakes were discovered in some instances, though the test-slip clerks, who are said to have worked well, did their best to avoid mistakes. When it was found impossible for a man to test all the totals and sub-totals of 25 sets of sheets and to make adjustment on them with reference to books during the office hours, the clerks were ordered to take them home for testing the totals, &c., and to make adjustment on the next day in the office. This procedure enabled the two adjusters to finish 4,863 sets of sheets in 82 days. After a few days' reabstraction, when it was found that it was scarcely better than the original abstraction, thorough reabstraction was stopped and partial reabstraction and adjustment with reference to the schedule book begun from that time progress was satisfactory.

56. *Tabulation.*—The total expenditure under this head was Rs. 853. The number of tabulators employed cannot be ascertained, as they where paid by piecework after the 15th July. The progress was very satisfactory on registers VII, VIII, IX, but on others it was found difficult to realize even two-thirds work. It was then considered necessary to allow the tabulators to take the sheets and block forms of registers home after office hours. They could not even then finish their daily task, including totalling forms. On the introduction of system of payment by piecework very few tabulators, and those only who worked hard, obtained about two-thirds of their monthly pay (Rs. 15). The result was that almost all the good tabulators on registers showing castes and occupations left work in July and August, when they found, after repeated attempts, that it was impossible to do the full task and earn thereby the maximum pay (Rs. 15). In fact, the pay sanctioned was not properly proportioned to the task assigned.

57. *Forms.*—The only inconvenience felt was in regard to the form of sheet XI among the abstraction sheets.

Columns of this sheet were arranged in the order agreeable neither to the columns of R form nor to those of tabulation register XX. The columns of this sheet should be arranged in the order in which the columns of register XX were arranged, and then there would be no necessity for R forms, and the test-slip clerks and the tabulators on register XX might fill up test-slips and Tabulation registers, respectively, from the original sheet without any difficulty. About one hundred rupees might be saved by this means per million of population, as there would be no necessity for R form clerks. The columns of totals in the main portion and in the summary of the test-slip do not appear to be of much use at the time of adjustment, and they might safely be omitted.

58. As to tabulation registers no alteration seems necessary, except those ordered to be made during the tabulation. The only alteration we have to suggest is that the number of lines (12) should be equal in all registers, so that the totals of every twelve blocks or sheets of all the registers, and totalling forms, may be inter-compared without any inconvenience, *i.e.*, without giving any additional total in any register to the comparing clerks.

59. The proposal made by the Superintendent in paragraph 3 of his circular No. 98, dated 6th January 1892, about abstraction, seems a good one and has my approval. But it is to be noted that the adjustment cannot altogether be avoided, if the schedule books be not corrected before the commencement of the abstraction. Most of the enumerators who do not understand the instructions for enumeration cannot distinguish what is caste and what is sub-castes, and enter main caste in the column of sub-caste, and sub-caste in the columns of caste and so on. If the abstractors are not careful to have these mistakes corrected by the supervisor, they will have to be corrected by subsequent adjustment. There is also a risk that the abstractors be punished for the mistakes committed by the enumerators.

The above changes would simplify the work of the inspector. As it was, the time allowed for abstraction and tabulation was under-estimated, and the greatest difficulty was experienced in keeping the men together when they found that they could not complete their tasks and suffered in pocket. From the beginning to the end my Census Deputy Collector was three times changed owing to transfers, and this did not tend to facilitate work.

APPENDIX.

NOTE BY BABU KHAGENDRA NATH MITRA, DEPUTY COLLECTOR.

THE annexed table I shows the distribution of the chief castes of the district and their variations since 1872.

2. The number of Rajbansis, Paliyas, Kochhs, and Desis in the present census is 62,975, showing a slight decrease of 242 persons over the census of 1872, but an increase of 2,275, or 3·7 per cent., over the census of 1881. Eight thousand seven hundred and thirty persons have returned themselves as Desis in the present census, whereas, in the two previous censuses, there do not appear to have been returned any Desis at all. They must have been included in one or other, or perhaps all of the three divisions of Rajbansis, Kochhs, and Paliyas. All these four classes belong, no doubt, to the same parent stock, and as is well known, they themselves would like to be classed as Rajbansis or Paliyas rather than Kochhs. The figures in the present census give the number of Kochhs, Paliyas and Rajbansis, and Desis to be, respectively, 21,177, 14,471, 18,597, and 8,730; whereas in 1872 their number was 14,173, 24,320, 24,724, and *nil*. This shows an abnormal variation and seems to be due to no other cause than the whims of the unsympathetic enumerators who, in noting the castes of these people, must have been guided by their own notions and convictions rather than by the professions of the people themselves. The Kochhs, Paliyas, Rajbansis, and Desis all inhabit the Barind portion of the district, which is contiguous with the district of Dinajpur, the home of these semi-Hinduized aborigines. Barindra is a very unhealthy tract of country, and this, no doubt, accounts for the non-increase of the Kochh population of the district since 1872. The origin of the three divisions, Rajbansis Kochhs and Paliyas as current in this part of the country, is as follows:—

Once upon a time there was a mighty King who had three sons. A war broke out and the King bade his sons to go to the battle-field. One was brave enough to meet the adversary on the field, another fled away, whilst the third hid himself within his house through fear of life. The descendants of the first came to be designated by the proud title of Rajbansis, which means "family of Raja or King." The descendants of the second came to be called *Paliyas*, as their ancestor had fled from the battle field, the Sanskrit equivalent of *flying* being *palayan* (পলায়ন). The descendants of the third came to be called Kochhs, because their ancestor had concealed himself through fear, the Sanskrit equivalent of *shrinking* being *sankoch* (সংকোচ).

This affords us an explanation as to why the Kochhs and the Paliyas aspire to be called by the enviable appellation of Rajbansis.

It is currently believed that the Desis were the first to come to the country, and the subsequent arrivals of the same caste gave them the name of *Desi* or native of the soil.

Of the two subdivisions of the Paliyas, the *Sadhu* or pure, and the Babu, the former are said to be the descendants of those who were employed as domestic servants by the Brahman of Dinajpur, in consequence of which they had to refrain from eating pork and fowl, which the Babu Paliyas have no objection to take.

3. The number of Chains in 1872 was 30,082, whereas in the present census their number is given to be 41,213. This large increase is due to the transfer of Kataha *diara* from the Sonthal Parganas to this district. The Chains are pre-eminently an agricultural population, and are confined to the *diara* portion of the country in *thanas* Ratua, Kalia Chak, and Sibganj, where plenty of good arable land is always available owing to the alluvial action of the rivers. The Chains of this district are pure agriculturists. Mr. Sherring's descriptions of this caste apply in noway to the Chains of Malda, whilst Mr. C. F. Magrath's epithets of "thieves," "impostors," and "swindlers" are quite undeserved so far as Malda Chains are concerned. It is not correct to say that the Chains are not allowed to give water to the Brahmans; their position in this respect is the same as that of Nagars and Dhanuks. There are two endogamous divisions of this caste—the *Chhoto bhag* and the *Barha bhag*. They take each other's rice.

Widow-marriage is permitted by both sections of the caste. Divorce is not permitted. The Chains belong all to the Kasyapa *gotra*.

4. The Kaibarttas, also known as Chasats and divided into two classes (Halia and Jaliya) inhabit the *diara* portion of the country Their number in 1872 was 27,566, and in 1891 37,744. The increase in this case also is due to the increase of area noted above.

5. The Tiyars live principally in *thanas* Ratua, English Bazar, and Kalia Chak. They show very slight increase since 1872. Though as many as 2,616 Tiyars have been returned from *thana* Kharba, very few Tiyars actually reside there. The Tiyars returned from Kharba must have been the field labourers, who at the time of the census had gone over to that part of the district in quest of employment in the field.

6. The Binds numbered 6,002in 1872, and 10,395 in 1891, showing an increase of 4,393 or more than 73 per cent. The Binds are regarded as the criminal tribe of Malda. Their abnormal increase seems due to immigration from Bihar, and the majority of the dacoities and other serious crimes have been laid to their charge. The Binds live principally in *thana* English Bazar and Ratua, and commit dacoities in the jungly parts of *thanas* Gajol and Malda

7. The Haris numbered 14,148, 11,788, and 15,067 in 1872, 1881, and 1891 respectively. It seems that during the 10 years following the census of 1872, the Hari population showed a marked decrease, but since 1881 they are regaining their strength. The decrease and increase must be put down to the ordinary law of population. The Haris are confined to the Kharba and Gajol *thanas* of the district. As everywhere else, these aboriginal people have been forced by their more civilized competitors to live in the less favourable part of the district.

8. The Kharwars have no fixed place of abode, they are mostly up-country men who have come here to work as labourers and bearers.

9. The Chamars and the Muchis also are scattered over the whole district, and have no fixed place of abode.

10. The Dhangars are found mostly in *thanas* English Bazar and Kalia Chak, and are principally immigrants from the Sonthal Parganas, whence they came in quest of employment as day labourers and indigo factory servants.

11. The Malos are confined to *thanas* English Bazar and Kalia Chak, where they are employed in fishing. They have almost doubled themselves during the last 20 years.

12. The Nagars and the Dhanuks, like the Chains and Kaibarttas, live in the *diara* portion of the country and devote themselves to agricultural pursuits.

13. The Tantis are the weaver class of Malda and Sibganj. Closely allied to them are the Goneshes, who form the large majority of the weavers that were employed at the East India Company's factory at Kaligram. In the census of 1872 the Goneshes must all have been returned as Tantis, as the number of Tantis in 1872 was given as 16,360, whilst in 1891 it was only 4,897; on the other hand, not a single Gonesh was to be found in 1872, whilst in 1891 their number is given to be 13,094.

14. The Napits, being the village servants of the higher castes, are scattered all over the district, and offer no special point of interest worthy of notice.

15. The Pundaris have multiplied 10 per cent. since 1872. They are rearers of silkworms and cultivators of mulberry plants. They reside largely in *thana* English Bazar, where the land is best suited for mulberry cultivation. They also inhabit *thanas* Malda and Kalia Chak.

The rearing of silkworms is performed by a class of persons who belong to a special caste known as Pundaris, Puros. Respecting the origin of this class nothing definite is known. Their features and complexion present but little to distinguish them from the Nabasaks and other lower Hindu castes. One tradition says that the Pundaris were originally inhabitants of the North-Western Provinces, whence they were driven into their present isolated position by the ravages of the Mahrattas. A second tradition connects them as being the remnants of the ancient kingdom of Pundra, whilst a third would make them as the followers of a fugitive King of Pundra, who became degraded in consequence of ceasing to observe the Brahmanical ceremonies, and to have Brahmans as priests.

16. The following exogamous divisions of the castes are found in this district :—

(*a*) Chandra Risi; (*b*) Ala Risi; (*c*) Mug Risi; (*d*) Tala Risi; (*e*) Kasyapa Risi.

The names of these exogamous divisions have been formed after the names of the Risis or saints, who are said to have been the spiritual guides of the original families, from whom the members of the caste trace their descent.

17. There are also two endogamous divisions of the caste—(*a*) *Barha bhag* and (*b*) *Chhota bhag*, members of which do not intermarry or take one another's cooked food.

Widow-marriage is not permitted, and divorce is absolutely prohibited. An intelligent member, with commendable zeal of the caste, tried a few years ago to introduce widow-marriage, but failed in his attempt, and has been interdicted in society.

No good Brahman would take water from a Pundari, or even from Brahmans who have become *patit*, by degrading themselves by officiating at the religious ceremonies of a Pundari.

The Pundariks are followers of Pundarikaksha or the Lotus-eyed (another name of Vishnu).

18. The higher castes—Brahman, Chhatri, and Kayasthas—are mostly temporary residents in the district, who have come here as Government officers, *zamindars'* servants or traders, and shopkeepers.

19. The Sonthal population has now reached 20,989. They have cleared the thick jungle of Pandua and its vicinity, and have now settled in *thanas* Gajol and Malda. They are all immigrants from Pakur and Rajmahal, and have reclaimed a very large portion of the district from the most uninviting jungles.

20. The Goalas are confined to the north-western portion of the district, where large pastures are available for feeding buffaloes and other cattle.

21. The Telis known as Kalus and Tilis, numbered as many as 17,949 in 1872, whereas in the present census their number is only 8,195. It is suspected that some Palis who deal in oil were returned as Tilis in 1872, as otherwise their abnormal decrease can be put down to no other known cause.

Table I.

Statement showing the chief Castes in the district and the Variations since 1872.

Name of Caste.	Population.			Variation since 1872.	Remarks.
	1872.	1881.	1891.		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Rajbansi	24,724	60,700	18,597	—6,127	
Kochh	14,173		21,177	+7,004	
Pali	24,320		14,471	—7,849	
	63,217	...	54,245	—8,972	
Desi	...	...	8,730	+8,730	
			62,975	—242	
Chain	30,082	33,639	41,213	+11,131	
Chasadas and Kaibartta ...	27,566	4,061 23,556	37,744	+10,178	
Tiyar	13,717	15,736	14,301	+584	
Bind	6,002	7,578	10,395	+4,393	
Hari	14,148	11,788	15,067	+919	
Kharwar	6,005	4,182	6,413	+408	
Chamar and Muchi ...	4,929	7,718	5,982	+1,053	
Dhangar, Oraon ...	3,165	2,622	389	+2,776	
Malo	3,495	4,281	5,662	—2,167	
Nagar	...	12,319	18,878	+18,878	
Dhanuk	7,805	5,057	7,302	—503	
Tanti	16,360	6,492	4,897		
Gonesh	...	...	13,094	+1,631	
Napit	6,357	8,046	6,949	+592	
Pundari	11,162	...	9,574	—1,588	
Kayastha	4,601	4,656	2,702	—1,899	
Chhatri or Rajput ...	3,207	5,104	2,871	—336	
Brahman	8,507	12,001	8,318	—189	
Sonthal	215	833	20,989	+20,774	
Goala (Gop)	14,389	16,875	15,291	+902	
Teli	8,934	9,005	6,467	—2,467	
Tili	8,038	...	1,504	—6,534	
Kalu	977	2,369	224	—753	
Baiti	19,322	1,121	57	—19,265	

22. Natives of the district, classified by castes, arranged in order of social precedence.

Table II.

I Brahman.
II. Baidya.
III. Kayastha.
IV. Navasakhas—

1. Tili.
2. Malakar (Mali).
3. Tambuli.
4. Sadgop.
5. Kamar (Karmakar).
6. Kumar (Kumbhakar).
7. Gandhabanik.
8. Barui or Barai.
9. Napit.

V. Castes claiming equality with the Navasakhas—

1. Mayara.
2. Tanti.
3. Kansari.
4. Sankhari (or Sankhabanik).
5. Goala or Gop
6. Ugra Kshetri (Aguri).
7. Kaibartta and Chasat.
8. Gonesh.
9. Garal.

VI. Inferior Hindu castes—

1. Vaishnava.
2. Subarnabanik (or Sanar Bena).
3. Sonar.
4. Sutradhar.
5. Bangadeshi Shah.
6. Gaurdeshi Banik.
7. Pundari.
8. Teli and Kalu.
9. Nagar.
10. Dhanuk.
11. Chain.
12. Gangat.
13. Saraiya
14. Malo and Gurhi.
15. Jaliya and Jaliya Kaibartta.
16. Sunri (Sundi).
17. Dhopa.
18. Jugi.
19. Patni.
20. Gahanidar.

VII. Semi-Hinduized aborigines—

1. Nama Sudra (or Chandal or Chanral).
2. Rajbansi.
3. Pali.
4. Kochh.
5. Desi.
6. Bind.
7. Tiyar.
8. Ghatwal.
9. Dhangar (Oraon).
10. Sonthal.
11. Dosadh.
12. Bauri.
13. Bhar.
14. Kotwal.
15. Beldar.
16. Bhumij.
17. Hari.
18. Dom.
19. Bagdi.
20. Kural.
21. Muchi.
22. Chamar.
23. Mihtar.

23. Up-country men who have settled in this district or have got their temporary residence here, arranged according to their social precedence.

Table III.

I. Brahman.

II. Chhatri or Rajput—

(1) Surya Bansi.
(2) Chandra Bansi.
(3) Chowhan.

III. Vaisya—

Khatri.
Agarwalá.
Ajodhya Basi Baniá.
Bas Bania.

Jeswas Baniá.

IV. Kayastha (Lálá).

V. Lower castes—

Koeiri.
Kurmi.
Kahar.
1. Kharwara.
2. Turha.
3. Rawani.
Teli.
Bhar.
Kewat.
Mulla.
Surahiya.
Gareri.
Nunia.
Kalwar.
Laheri.
Neharia.
Nat.
Pasi.
Musahar.
Bahelia (Dosadh).

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